

WASHINGTON.
"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."
SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1847.
WEEKLY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

This paper is about to be enlarged to exactly twice its present size, and will then consist of eight folio pages, instead of four, as now and heretofore.

The subscription to the paper per year will be, after the first day of July ensuing, Three Dollars per annum; being an advance, as will be perceived, less by one-half than the increase of cost of publication caused by the enlargement.

For the long Sessions of Congress (averaging eight months) the price will be Two Dollars; for the short Sessions One Dollar per copy.

A reduction of 20 per cent. (or one-fifth of the full charge) will be made to any one who shall order and pay for, at one time, five copies of the Weekly paper; and a like reduction of 25 per cent. (or one-fourth of the full charge) to any one who will order and pay for at one time ten or more copies.

No accounts being kept for this paper, it will not be forwarded to any one unless paid for in advance, nor sent any longer than the time for which it is so paid for.

THE DAILY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER will continue to be published, as usual, at Ten Dollars per year, with this addition to its value to Subscribers: that a double sheet (eight pages of the present size, instead of four) will be thrown off whenever the press of Public Documents, Proceedings and Debates in Congress, or of Advertisements, shall require it.

THE THRICE-A-WEEK NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER will also continue to be published, as heretofore, with this addition also to its value: that a double sheet will be thrown off, probably as often as once a week during the Session of Congress, and at other times occasionally, whenever the press of matter shall, as stated in regard to the Daily paper, justify the Publishers in incurring that additional expense.

APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES. We learn that the following appointments and changes in office have been made by the President: Commodore CHARLES W. SKINNER to be Chief of the Bureau of Construction, &c. in the Navy Department, in the place of Commodore CHARLES MORRIS, resigned, we regret to learn, on account of ill health.

SETH BARTON, Solicitor of the Treasury, to be Chargé d'Affaires to Chili, in the place of WILLIAM CRUMP. R. H. GILLET, Register of the Treasury, to be Solicitor of the Treasury, vice Barton.

The Richmond Enquirer seems to take it unkindly that, in noticing its absurd proposition that the desolating march of our armies into the heart of Mexico constituted "the progress of civilization," we omitted the passage following this most extraordinary position, viz:

"Already we see a press established at Jalapa, diffusing light and liberty around it. The inhabitants of that beautiful region cannot but be elevated by a contact with the free citizens of our Republic; and no one can deny that the war will exert a powerful moral influence upon the destiny of Mexico."

We are sorry that the "Enquirer" cannot appreciate kindness and forbearance, such as ours was in omitting this passage; which we did not copy only because we had no desire to expose the Enquirer to the ridicule which cannot fail to attend the notion of a press, which is merely a follower of our camp, and published in our language, "diffusing light and liberty" among a people not one in a hundred of whom can read, and of whom those that can read do not understand one word of what is published in it. As to the "moral influence" of War upon a people, conquered, exasperated, and writhing under a sense of utter humiliation and degradation, can any idea be more preposterous?

The Whigs of the State of North Carolina are making active arrangements for the approaching Congressional Election, by bringing out good and able men in the districts last represented by Locofocos. Of the late members we are glad to see that Mr. BARRINGER, of the mountain district, a firm and consistent and talented Whig, has consented to stand for re-election.

GEN. TAYLOR'S OPINION.—In a letter to the Hon. J. W. MILLER, U. S. Senator from New Jersey, Gen. TAYLOR, speaking of the revolutions in Mexico, says: "While these intestine divisions prevent Mexico from putting forth her strength in defensive war, it is much to be feared that they will equally incapacitate her for making peace."

GEN. SCOTT'S OPERATIONS. In the course of six weeks, after effecting without loss the landing of a large force in front of an enemy having a considerable number of disposable troops, Gen. Scott has taken about eight thousand prisoners, amongst whom were ten Generals, two cities, two famous castles, five hundred pieces of ordnance, and ten thousand stand of arms. Even more: he has pursued the enemy with unrelenting vigor, so that the opposing army is scattered to the winds, and their great General wanders, almost abandoned, in the mountains, whilst the invaded country now lies, as it were, prostrate before him and his victorious columns.—New Orleans Times.

"The two armies of Scott and Taylor, it is said, will celebrate the declaration of American Independence in Mexico on the 4th of July next."—Washington Union.

Upon this on the Louisville Journal makes the following pungent remarks: "We know not how others may feel, but for ourselves we confess that we should have no heart for the celebration of the anniversary of the Independence of the United States in the conquered capital of a sister Republic—the fallen capital of the only great Republic besides our own upon the face of the earth—conquered in one of the most iniquitous wars recorded in the dark and bloody annals of mankind."

THE MESSRS. BARINGS'S Commercial Circular, dated at London on the 3d instant, remarks, "that the liberal contributions forwarded and still to come from the citizens of the United States, for the relief of Ireland, have not only been acknowledged in Parliament, but highly appreciated by the country at large; and, besides the actual benefit conferred upon our suffering fellow-countrymen, show feelings of sympathy which cannot fail to be reciprocated on this side, and to draw closer the ties of peace and good will between the two nations."

OUR ARMIES IN MEXICO. In another part of this paper we estimate, in round numbers, at one hundred thousand men, the Military force which it would be necessary for the United States to place and maintain in Mexico, in the event of its being determined, as proposed, to overrun that whole country, and retain possession of what we may occupy. It is a remarkable coincidence that the Editors of the "Cincinnati Chronicle"—more accurately informed, probably, of the statistics of Mexico than we—close their consideration of the subject, in the subjoined article, with an estimate of precisely the same amount. "If we are to conquer and occupy all Mexico," say they, "we should have one hundred thousand men in the field."

The extract of a Letter from Gen. TAYLOR's camp, which we also subjoin, shows how very far short of the necessary strength to enable him to hold his own, will be his force when the released Volunteers leave him, as they are even now doing, to return to their homes.

FROM THE CINCINNATI CHRONICLE, MAY 15. THE WAR—THE ARMY IN MEXICO.—We have been victorious in all our movements in Mexico; and, as to open battles in the field, no reasonable man could expect any other event. But there is another result to which we have now arrived, not anticipated in the plans of those who made the war, and but little thought of by the people themselves, and which is the worst of events for our own country. It is, when, having been repeatedly victorious, and conquering and overrunning all the territories, cities, and towns in our way, we should at last have to occupy, defend, and dispose of the cities and territories we have conquered, in a tropical climate, exposed to diseases worse than battles—to monetary insurrections on the part of an exasperated population, and to a partisan warfare far more fatal than the most bloody battles. This is the scene to which we are now called, and which demands all the wisdom and patriotism of the country.

Support the very best state of the case, (not peace,) where are we? A small and gallant army, under Scott, enters Mexico—what then? Is the Mexican people subdued? Was Russia subdued when Napoleon entered Moscow? Is a tropical climate any better to endure for men brought up in a temperate zone than a northern winter?

The last advice from Scott's army, at Jalapa, represent a state of things which military men will understand, but which men unaccustomed to consider the necessities of an army will hardly comprehend as the consequences of victory. As on the Rio Grande, so on the road to Mexico, each mile of advance lengthens the line of communications—demands increased means of transportation, greater depots of provisions, new garrisons, new outposts; in fine, increases in much greater proportion than the actual distance the difficulties both of advance and defence. At Jalapa, sixty-eight miles from Vera Cruz, and not one-fourth the distance to Mexico, Scott is embarrassed and detained by the same causes which arrested Gen. Taylor's march to San Luis de Potosi.

It is in vain to deny that our Government has entered on a war without sagacity, and have conducted it without any prudence as to its needs or its consequences. If the conquest and holding of Mexico be the thing to be done, why have we not double as many troops there? Are we to conquer and hold a vast country, with eight millions of people, with twenty-five thousand? That is all we have, and all we shall have, by the last of July. Suppose Scott in Mexico, and the principal places taken, let us see what is necessary:

In the city of Mexico.....	12,000
Do Puebla.....	5,000
Do Jalapa.....	1,000
Do Perote.....	1,000
Do Vera Cruz.....	2,000
Line of the Rio Grande.....	5,500
San Luis de Potosi.....	8,000
Victoria.....	1,000
Tampico.....	2,000
Line of San Luis.....	11,000
Santa Fe.....	1,000
Chihuahua.....	1,000
Detachments.....	1,000
Line of Santa Fe.....	3,000
California.....	2,000
Out parties.....	2,000
Baggage trains.....	2,000
Total army.....	46,500

This is all of it wanted for the lines in which we are now moving, without any occupation at all of the remaining provinces of Mexico, comprehending one half the empire! What, then, are our Government calculating upon?

We must close this view of the subject with these plain propositions: If we are to conquer and occupy all Mexico, we should have one hundred thousand men in the field. If we are not to do that, it is absurd to advance further. One of these propositions should be adopted.

Extract of a Letter from Lieut. Corvine. CORRESPONDENCE OF THE CINCINNATI CHRONICLE. "CAMP NEAR MONTEREY, APRIL 4, 1847. "No little speculation is indulged in by the officers of Gen. Taylor's command as to what course he will adopt after the term of service of the present volunteer force now out here shall have expired—whether, with the small and insignificant force with which he is to be furnished, he will remain at Monterey, or whether he will fall back to the Rio Grande. Some are of opinion that he will bring up the four regiments (which it is understood are all that have been assigned for him) to Monterey, and such supplies as he may want, and hold the place—throwing the responsibility of opening the line of communication with the Rio Grande upon the Government. Not a few believe that he will adopt the former course, namely, fall back to Camargo or Matamoros. One thing is evident, he cannot hold the country he has conquered unless he is supplied with more troops than have been sent to him. With the four regiments he will be able to hold Monterey, but Saltillo will have to be abandoned, and the whole line from Monterey to the Brazos left unprotected. This would present the most deplorable state of things; the victorious leader of our army shut up, as it were, in the enemy's country, and cut off from all communication with his own! Why, the foraging parties of the enemy that have of late infested the country between here and Camargo could then retake all the towns on the Rio Grande. What a humiliating sight! Can it be that our Government will leave the old hero in this strait? And yet, if Gen. Taylor is not furnished with more troops to stand at least of one of two alternatives is left him: either to abandon the country he has conquered, and fall back on Camargo, or else concentrate his forces in Monterey, leaving it to the Government to open a communication with him."

VIRGINIA. THE FOURTH DISTRICT SETTLED.—At a second meeting of the sheriffs, held on Monday last, the following result was arrived at: For IYVING (Whig) 331, for BOOCOCK (Loco) 334. The latter, of course, gets the certificate, and it is stated that Mr. IYVING will contest his right to it.

THE HALIFAX DISTRICT.—The Lynchburg Virginian understands that Mr. TAYLOR will not contest the election of Mr. FLOUNCE, whose majority is 59, instead of one, as officially reported—the votes at one of the precincts in Patrick, which gave Mr. F. 58 majority, having been thrown out by the sheriff in consequence of the omission to qualify the commissioners.

CONTRIBUTION OF VIRGINIA.—The barque Bachelor sailed from Richmond on Thursday last, laden with provisions, clothing, &c. for the relief of the suffering poor of Ireland. The cargo is valued at about fifteen thousand dollars, and consists of the following articles, viz: 2,434 barrels and 150 bags of corn meal, 242 barrels corn, 52 barrels flour, 2 hogsheads and five barrels bacon, 19 boxes and two bales clothing, and one barrel rice. Another vessel is to be dispatched from the same port next month on a similar mission.

THE "SECOND CONQUEST" OF MEXICO. We had occasion, in our last, to refer to the apparently predominant sentiment in the city of New Orleans in favor of War, Conquest, and Annexation, as signs of Glory to us, and harbingers of Prosperity and Happiness to such neighboring nations as we may undertake to harry and uproot. We find in a popular paper of that city, which has since reached us, further evidence of the fact, in the publication, without any expression of dissent, of a letter from Brasos, under date of May 3, from which we extract the following:

"Does it occur to you that this is the anniversary of the glorious 3d, when our batteries first opened on the Mexicans? Of course you have (3 P. M.) your decanter at your side. Your good health, Messrs. Editors! and here's to the memory of the days of May, 1846, &c. &c."

"Let me fill your glass again, Messrs. Editors. Here's to the destiny of our country; it must be accomplished. Is not the progress of our arms but forming, as it were, a broad high-road on which shall travel civilization and liberty?—a broad high-road, which, sweeping across the mighty continent of the western hemisphere, shall continue to enlarge until, binding nation with nation, language with language, hemisphere with hemisphere, it shall have performed THE MIGHTY CIRCUIT OF THE WORLD."

Will our readers wake up now? Will the People rouse themselves, shake off their lethargy, and uphold and protect their institutions, their rights, and their liberties, whilst it is yet in time? Or will they continue to slumber in sloth and apathy, until, under the influence of this mad Ambition and this rage for Conquest, every thing in this Government that is worth preserving will be swept away by the Tornado which already glooms and growls in the horizon.

As a contrast to these baleful doctrines, the natural growth of War, which have sprung up to view only within the last few weeks, we have pleasure in placing before our readers, in the subjoined extracts, the calm, sagacious, and truly constitutional views of those veterans of our profession who, when they speak advisedly, always speak well and wisely. We wish we had room to day for more of them.

FROM THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE. The new chapter which is opened in the history of our country contains already many strange passages; and none are more so, none are more startling, none more calculated to arouse the attention, if not fears, of reflecting and right-judging men, than those which relate to the acquisition and retention of the vast region on the other side of the continent, hitherto belonging to Mexico, and of the nature, extent, and use of which we are as yet so little acquainted. Already these far-off provinces of this vast empire—Republic seem so hardly to be the proper word—are placed under the control of our pro-consuls and Government officers, with military titles and command, uniting in their own persons civil and military power, and ruled with an authority not known or recognized by our constitution and laws. Communication between them and the Government at home is tedious and difficult, and the transmission of orders slow and interrupted. No one can see what will be the end of all this. It is at best, all must admit, an experiment. These far-off provinces may attach themselves firmly to our country; and they may not. That is yet to be determined. But the question recurs, with a force not to be resisted, how came they to be annexed? and what is to prevent the annexation of every thing else that we may desire, in the same manner, and on the same terms? Let us pause, and look into the future, with calm judgments. Is it too late? Are we so far on the road of progress that we cannot halt? Are we hurried on by an irresistible impulse, which patriotism itself cannot impede? We trust not. "We will not despair" of our country, nor think yet that it is to be doomed to a fatal expansion from the lust of dominion, and the love of conquest and acquisition. We invoke here, as we do upon all occasions in these days of reckless improvidence, the true conservative feeling of the country.

FROM THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER. If any thing could excite our surprise in these days, it would be the remarks of the New York Sun of Monday last, on the question, "What are we to do with Mexico?" It says: "We believe there is but one course to pursue, and that is, the entire occupation of the country, taking its revenues until the expenses of the war, including all losses sustained by our commerce and otherwise during the war, and our old debt, principal and interest, with all expenses of collecting the same, are paid. No treaty should be made short of exacting all this, and insisting upon such a disposition of things for the future in Mexico as will promote our interests without abridging hers." This would be a nominal seizure for indemnity, but a real and perpetual annexation of Mexico to the United States—an act which would be inconsistent with the principles of justice, and revolting to the moral feeling of mankind. It is downright hypocrisy to talk of holding possession of Mexico until we shall be fully indemnified for "the expenses of the war, including all losses sustained by our commerce and otherwise during the war, and our old debt, principal and interest, with all expenses of collecting the same," and of then restoring her to the free enjoyment of her rights. Our bill of costs would never be liquidated, nor would Mexico ever be liberated. The worst and most dangerous feeling which can be entertained by the Government and people of the United States is that of conquest. It has no limitation to its desires, nor would it ever be satisfied. The conquest of Mexico would beget a thirst for new territory, and we should seize upon our weaker neighbors in wantonness of spirit. Heaven forbid that the advice given by the New York editor should be adopted by our Government; for it would strike a fatal blow not only at the liberties of Mexico, but at the existence of our own Government, at the same time that it would bring upon us the scorn of mankind. No—let us not stain our fair character by an act so atrocious, but, on the contrary, endeavor to regulate our conduct by the golden maxim, "Do as we would be done by."

FROM THE OLD NORFOLK HERALD. Whatever difference of opinion there may be about the origin of the war, all parties must begin to feel the necessity of putting an end to it as soon as it can be done consistently with existing circumstances, without reference alone to the conquest of Mexico. That wretched country is now in a condition, when chastisement must be long degraded the party inflicting it, as it would an individual who has been provoked by the insolence of a loafer to knock him down, and still continues to pummel him while he is no longer able to resist, though he refuses to beg for quarter. And what good are we likely to derive from continuing to harass Mexico? Torn as she is by domestic factions, which are only prolonged by the war, we only diminish her capacity to make peace by causing a diminution of the responsibility of her Government. Probably at this very moment the nation is without a head. Her valiant chief, the redoubtable Santa Anna, is now dead. Her last chief, like his prototype, the hero of Gadesbilla, but, unlike him, without any hope of getting off by subtle fuge and lying. How will he face the indignation and vengeance of his abused and betrayed countrymen? He must infinitely flee his country, or suffer the penalty of his base cowardice and corruption. As long as this state of things exists in Mexico we cannot have peace. What, then, are we to do? Shall we occupy her capital and all her fortified places, her coasts and harbors—in a word, shall we hold the Republic of Mexico, "from Dan even to Beersheba," as a conquered province, and extend our jurisdiction over the country, so as to enforce her people to pay the expense which we shall incur in keeping her in thrallism; or, continuing to occupy her seaboard on the Gulf and the Pacific, withdraw our armies from the interior and take up a line of occupation along what we intend to be the permanent boundary between the two Republics, namely, from the mouth of the Rio Grande to the Paso del Norte, and from the latter to the Pacific? We shall thus leave the Mexicans in quiet possession of their country, with the exception of their seaboard, to full leisure to form a regular and stable government, if they so disposed, competent to make a treaty of peace and amity with us; which they would not be slow to do, being taxed through their imports for the expense which we were incurring in the employment of our army and navy on her burning seaboard. And it is not improbable that "so this complex we shall come at last."

LATEST FROM VERA CRUZ. Our friend and correspondent at New Orleans informs us of the arrival there of the steamer James L. Day, from Vera Cruz on the 6th, bringing among her passengers Gen. PILLOW and Col. MAY, the latter having got on board at Brasos.

The city of Puebla had sent a deputation to Gen. Scott, and will make no resistance to his occupation of that place. Arrangements had been made to defend the capital, but after Gen. PILLOW was on board at Vera Cruz he received a message from shore stating that an express had arrived with intelligence that the Mexican Government had abandoned the capital, taking with it the archives, and that the citizens had sent a deputation to Gen. Scott to advance and afford them protection.

Proclamations were being circulated by the Mexicans calling for the organization of guerrilla regiments, which plan of warfare was to be adopted on an extensive scale. In consequence of sickness, death, and loss in battle, it is said that Gen. Scott will not have left in his army more than about 5,000 effective men, after the return of the volunteers whose time shortly expires, and whom Gen. PILLOW states will return almost to a man. Of the seven regiments, he says not a company will remain.

SANTA ANNA'S army was entirely dispersed, and he, wholly without power and influence, was seeking to leave his country. Gen. TAYLOR remained at Monterey, and the main body of his army at Buena Vista, without any prospect of an immediate advance. All the new troops recently intended for him were, under a new order, to be sent to Vera Cruz.

FROM CHIHUAHUA. A party of Americans arrived at New Orleans on the 10th instant from Chihuahua, by way of Red River. They set off, about thirty in number, under the command of Major CAMPBELL, of Springfield, Missouri. They travelled by the route of the Presidio, having left Chihuahua on the 15th of March. They suffered incredible hardships on the march, and had several skirmishes with the Camanche Indians, who always showed themselves timid when opposed in earnest.

Col. DONIPHAN was, in the absence of instructions, at a loss to know what course to pursue. The term of service of his regiment expires early in June. The command was in the enjoyment of excellent health.

FROM CENTRAL AMERICA. The brig Mary Ann Jones arrived yesterday from Havana, having sailed on the 2d instant. From Central America the news had been received by one or two arrivals, and of some importance. President CARRERA has withdrawn Guatemala altogether from the Confederation of Central America, and declared her a separate and independent Republic. The States of Salvador and Nicaragua are laboring to effect a political union on the plan, it is said, of our own Union. Commissioners have been appointed from both States, who are to meet at the port of La Union, in the bay of Conchagua, to endeavor to effect the desirable event. A manifesto appears from Gen. Carrera, assigning reasons for withdrawing from any more attempts of this kind. It is an able document, but quite too long for us. He evidently is jealous of designs which he suspects the United States entertain of obtaining command of the Isthmus at some point, and alludes quite pointedly to our designs of conquest in that direction.

All Central America appears to be quiet. Costa Rica, it is thought, will follow the example of Guatemala, and declare herself independent. [Piquette.]

THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL. FROM THE CUMBERLAND CIVILIAN OF MAY 18. At length we are able to speak with certainty in relation to the negotiations for the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. On Tuesday last they were successfully concluded in the city of Boston. We do not think it necessary to enter into details, but will state that the amount required for the completion of the canal will be obtained from the following sources:

\$300,000 from Virginia;	
100,000 from the Barings;	
100,000 from Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria;	
200,000 from capitalists in Boston;	
200,000 to be taken by the contractors.	
Making \$1,100,000—the sum required for the completion of the canal to Cumberland.	

It is with the deepest satisfaction that we make this announcement. We hope in our next to announce the arrival of the contractors for the immediate commencement of the work.

FROM SANTA FE. The latest accounts received from Santa Fe are to the 3d of April. Col. PRICE, with about 450 troops, was in Santa Fe; the remainder of his command was scattered through the country, some guarding the horses and stock, and others garrisoning posts. The volunteers were enjoying better health than they had previously done; still very few of the whole number had escaped sickness.

CAVING IN OF THE LEVEE IN NEW ORLEANS. NEW ORLEANS, MAY 10, 1847. THE CREVASSE.—We regret to state that a crevasse occurred in the levee at Algiers, opposite the city, on Saturday, about 11 o'clock. It was occasioned by a landslide, in which some thirty or forty feet of the levee was at first included, but which rapidly extended, and when we saw it, late in the afternoon, it was one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty feet wide. The river, unfortunately, is extremely high, and the country in the rear is from six to eight feet lower than the surface of the water; the flood, consequently, rushes through with the velocity of a mill-race. The town and country around are already covered with water, and there is at least three feet on the race track.

The old hull of a large steambot, full of water, had been placed across the aperture, but without any good effect, as close down by her inner side, where the levee existed in the morning, there is one hundred feet water, and the current, of course, passes under the bottom of the boat without any interruption.

This crevasse, if not checked, will probably overflow a large portion of the plantations below the city down to the English Turn, and also those at Barataria. The only remedy for the water will be Bayou Barataria, which of itself will be unable to discharge it without overflowing its banks and flooding at least all the lower portions of the plantations, all of which we believe are, with one exception, unprotected by private levees in the rear of their cultivated ground. It is possible that the very low grounds, which exist to a large extent through that district of country, may enable the water to flow its way into Lake Ourcha and Little Lake, and so on to the ocean, without rising so high as to flood the whole surface of the country. We sincerely hope, though we have not much confidence, that this will be the case.—Bulletin.

THE CREVASSE.—The New Orleans papers of the 14th state that the break in the levee opposite that city was nearly overcome, and that by the next day the new levee would be extended across the opening. There had been nearly three hundred men at work upon it for the last three days.

THE SEASON IN THE WEST. From a communication in the Cincinnati Gazette, we find that the late frosts have proved so destructive to stone-fruit that of Peaches, Nectarines, and Apricots not one blossom in ten thousand is supposed to have survived them, and not more than one in a hundred of Pears, Cherries, and Plums. The same failure of the fruit crop is general in this neighborhood, though there are in particular localities a few exceptions to the general fact.

TO THE EDITORS. Messrs. GALE & SEATON: Permit me to avail myself of your columns, which have been freely thrown open to discussions of the discovery and of the orbit of the new planet Neptune, to make known to the public the complete confirmation of the re-discovery of it, for the date of May 10, 1795, (as a now missing star in the Histoire Celeste Francaise,) made by me on the second day of February last. This was announced to the public in the Union of February 9,* by Lieut. MAURY, Superintendent of the Washington Observatory, in a letter, dated February 8th, addressed to the Secretary of the Navy. A more full account of the steps which led me to it has already appeared in your paper of April 15.

The only circumstance that then caused the least doubt of the certainty of the discovery was a colon placed against the published entry in the Histoire Celeste, indicating that the star's place might be doubtful to the amount of five minutes. It appears from the European journals received by the last steamer, and by private letters, that the same discovery was made at Altona by the assistant observer, Dr. PETERSEN, [some time in March last, (more than a month after the date of mine). The two announcements from Washington and Altona reached LEVERRIER at Paris at the same time. In his communication to the French Academy he speaks of the discovery as *une idee ingenieuse*. As might have been expected, the precious repository of the manuscripts of LALANDE was examined; when one more wonder was added to the list of strange events in the history of Neptune. LALANDE observed the star twice, viz. on the 8th and 10th May, 1795. As the two entries did not agree, he suppressed the former, and in his printed book marked the latter doubtful. Had LALANDE, on comparing the entries and perceiving the discrepancy, adopted the course pursued by PIAZZI (and now pursued at the Washington Observatory) of promptly resorting to a third observation to solve the mystery, the most brilliant discovery in the history of the world would not have been reserved for a LEVERRIER or an ADAMS. There is no doubt of the mark in the original manuscripts, and there should be none; for two better observations LALANDE never made: I subjoin the entries as they are quoted from the manuscript: *Clock time of transit, Zenith dist.*

May 8, 1795, star 7.8 mag.; 14h. 11m. 36.5s.; 60° 8' 17"	
May 10, 1795, star 7.8 mag.; 14h. 11m. 23.5s.; 60° 7' 19"	
Two days' motion retrograde; 13s., north 58°	

These observations, after being corrected for the error of clock and quadrant, and referred to the mean equinox of January 1, 1847, give the planet's place. May 8, 1795, R.A. 14h. 14m. 44.10s. S. dec. 11° 34' 56.4" May 10, 1795, R.A. 14h. 14m. 32.14s. S. dec. 11° 34' 04.1" Two days' motion retrograde; 11.96s., north 52.3°

The actual motion in the same interval, according to my ephemeris of Neptune for May, 1795, was retrograde 12.13s., north 62.78°. Here, then, is the key to the mystery. The doubtful star (now no longer so) was Neptune. The two observations give for the 9th of May, 1795, a normal place of the planet, which restores fifty-two years of observation, and enables us to perfect its theory. I quote from the report of Lieutenant MAURY, of February 8th, my elements III of Neptune, computed on the 6th and reported to him. I append also Elements V, completed by me on the 2d of May.

Elements of Neptune referred to Greenwich mean equinox, and to the mean equinox of January 1, 1847.	Elements III. computed Feb. 8, 1847.	Elements V. completed May 2, 1847.
Perihelion point.....	0° 12' 23".51	1° 45' 32".90
Ascending node.....	131° 17' 35".80	129° 51' 13".7
Epoch January 1, 1847.....	328° 7' 56".64	326° 2' 1".34
Inclination.....	1° 54' 53".83	1° 45' 38".10
Eccentricity.....	0.0088407	0.005052917
Mean distance.....	30.35042	30.145119
Mean daily sidereal motion.....	21".3360	21".457843
Period in tropical years.....	1665.38134	1655.5133

Elements III were computed to test the discovery. Elements V were derived from a discussion of eight months' observations of Neptune in Europe and America, 497 in all. For the use of the recent very precise observations of Professor HUBBARD with the Washington Equatorial, I am indebted to the courtesy of the Superintendent. It is due to the Professors at the Observatory generally to acknowledge their aid in furnishing facilities for the work. Elements V follow the planet's observed path for the last nine months, with an average discrepancy of only one-third of a second of space.

The modification required by Elements V, in order to represent the path of Neptune perfectly for fifty-two years, are very slight. The node should be increased 927", and the inclination 92.5". It appears, moreover, that the total effect of the perturbations of Neptune's average daily motion in this period by all the other planets is an acceleration of 0".0206069.

With this certainty of the orbit of Neptune, astronomers can now prepare the usual planetary tables for its ephemeris, and determine with precision its share in producing the residual perturbations of Uranus.

The action of the three great planets for several years past has been such as to produce a tide, if we may so call it, of acceleration of Neptune's angular motion, thus shortening its apparent period in my elements V, which are adapted to its path in its perturbed orbit. If we free them from the effect of this tide, the true elliptic period of Neptune will approach much nearer to 168 32-1000 years, or the double of that of Uranus. There is therefore little reason to doubt the correctness of Prof. PEIRCE's discovery of the Laplacean libration of the period of Neptune around the double period of Uranus, the first yet discovered in the primary solar system.

With regard to the question whether Neptune has really caused the greater portion of the residual perturbations of Uranus, it is perhaps premature to express an opinion. Its orbit certainly does not come within the prescribed limits for this purpose.

Knowing the general accuracy of Prof. Peirce's computations, and seeing now confirmed my former elements which he had used as his basis, I deem it but an act of justice to state my belief, founded on his computations, that another planet is requisite to account for these residual perturbations.

When the particulars of Prof. Peirce's computations are made known, astronomers will see in the still unexplained perturbations of Uranus a source of hope, and I may add, a stimulus to exertion for a further enlargement of the boundaries of the system.

LALANDE and CHALLIS are similarly circumstanced with respect to Neptune. But saw it twice in their telescopes without discovering it. However, if we cannot give Lalande the merit of sagacity in discrediting his own observation, we must at least admit that he was a good prophet. The following prediction was published by him in 1801, in the preface to the Histoire Celeste, page 6: "The new planets," says Lalande, "which peripatetic are, are another important object of our work. Herschel has discovered one by accident, and when another (meaning another primary planet) shall be discovered, it will be found in our fifty thousand stars, thus giving at once the means of determining its period of revolution."

It is a subject of the liveliest gratification to me to have been the instrument, under Providence, of fulfilling, after the lapse of half a century, the latter part of this prophecy. Yours, respectfully, SEARS C. WALKER.

WASHINGTON, MAY 20, 1847. *This and all the other official announcements of the Superintendent on this subject are so worded as to conceal the name of the real discoverer. In yesterday's notice the discovery appears to have been made by a neutral pronoun—"it." Talleyrand's idea of the use of language applies well to these announcements.

†I doubt whether these manuscripts were sent to the German (not Danish) astronomer Ramker, as stated in the same article.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—The young men of Shelbyville, Tennessee, undertook, on the night of the 10th instant, to fire a salute for Gen. Scott's late victory. A letter from that town to the Nashville Whig says: "On the sixth round a premature explosion took place, which blew off the hand and arm of Mr. A. Turrentine, formerly editor of the Shelbyville Whig, and shattered both arms of Mr. John Sutton, while Dr. Scott, who had charge of the vent, lost the thumb of his right hand. Mr. Sutton underwent the amputation of both arms; a similar operation was performed upon Mr. Turrentine, which he survived only twenty hours, he receiving several internal injuries."

The Boston Traveller of Friday says: "There are various rumors abroad in Boston in respect to the defalcations of a late President of one of our banks. The amount is stated at \$60,000, and it is also stated that the guilty party is not at present in this country."

FROM BALTIMORE AND THE NORTH. BALTIMORE, MAY 21—5 P. M. The Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Maryland will commence its session in St. Paul's Church on Wednesday, the 29th instant. A large number of delegates are expected to be in attendance; among them many distinguished Divines.

During the past week fourteen vessels have cleared from this port, taking to England, Ireland, and France the following aggregate amount of breadstuffs, viz: 21,579 barrels flour, 3,291 barrels corn meal, 29,270 bushels wheat, and 82,870 bushels white and yellow corn, besides considerable beef, pork, and other provisions. The receipts of flour for the past week were in all 17,562 barrels, and 2,600 bbls. corn meal. The shipments of flour and grain now exceed the receipts considerably. There are no less than twenty-four vessels now waiting freights of breadstuffs for the same ports.

Holders of flour this morning were firm in asking \$9 for Howard street, at which figure some small sales took place. A sale of 300 barrels is reported this afternoon at \$8.75, a decline; but the general asking price for Howard street, City Mills, and Susquehanna is \$9. Small sales of corn meal at \$5.25.

Sales of prime Pennsylvania red wheat at 202 a 205 cents; white do. at worth 110 a 115; Maryland red wheat, good to prime, 19